

February 23, 2005  
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Serial No.: 09/898,509  
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**- REMARKS -**

Claims 1 and 2. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Lien rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,809,242 to *Shaw et al.* in view of *Virtual Politics, Democracia Electronica* to *Milbank*. The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Lien's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1 and 2 over *Shaw* in view of *Milbank*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Shaw* and *Milbank*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 2, all the claim limitations recited in independent claim 1 must be taught or suggested by the combination of *Shaw* and *Milbank*. See, MPEP §2143. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 2, because *Shaw* and *Milbank* in combination fail to teach or suggest "receiving recipient input from the recipient function at the node", "storing the recipient input in a database" and "searching the database of recipient input" as recited in independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shaw* in view *Milbank* is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3-14. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the art of record, particularly *Shaw* and *Milbank*, fail to teach or suggest "receiving recipient input from the recipient function at the node" and "storing the recipient input in a database" as recited in independent claim 3, and "means for receiving recipient input from the recipient function at the node" and "means for storing the recipient input in a database" as recited in independent claim 9. Allowance of claims 3-14 is therefore respectfully requested.

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### SUMMARY

Examiner Lien's rejection of claims 1 and 2 has been obviated remarks herein supporting an allowance of claims 1 and 2 over *Shaw* in view of *Milbank*. The Applicant has supported an allowance of new claims 3-14 over the art of record, particularly *Shaw* and *Milbank*. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-14 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Lien is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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